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Gray. A Letter to the Earl of Ellesmere.

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*From the Author,*

A

**SECOND LETTER**

TO

**THE EARL OF ELLESMERE,**

ON

**THE MANAGEMENT**

OF THE

**LIBRARY OF PRINTED BOOKS**

IN

**THE BRITISH MUSEUM.**

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**LONDON:**

**1849.**

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HARVARD COLLEGE LIBRARY  
FROM THE  
ANDREW PRESTON FEABODY  
FUND

July 23, 1940

"The Department of *Natural History* ought to have better assistance, and be transferred somewhere else, in which case there would be room enough for *Books* even immediately. I wish to impress upon the Committee the absolute necessity of this separation. No good can ever be done without it."—*Panizzi*, in *Rep. Comm. Brit. Mus.* 1836, ii. 392. n. 4800.

"In short, for the accomplishment of your views, you would desire, first, an annual grant of the amount of more than 12,000*l.* a year for the Library; next, the institution of two or more Libraries for the use of the public, with somewhat different views, in London; and, thirdly, the removal from the British Museum of the *Natural History Department*, for the purpose of affording extra space for the increased library?

"Not only space, but the extra assistance which is requisite."—*Panizzi*, *Rep. Comm. Brit. Mus.* 1836, ii. 392. n. 480.

"Scientific men are jealous of their authority; they are dogmatical and narrow-minded; and, as they think themselves infallible, they never would consult an officer. I think they would do the very reverse; if an officer were to suggest one way, they would just do the other to show their independence and superior judgment. I speak from what I have known of them."—*Panizzi*, l. c. p. 406. n. 4929.

"The scientific men would spoil the men of rank, or drive them away from the Board. I speak seriously, and from experience. An officer would have no chance against a scientific man who should take a crotchet into his head; and they are all crotchety."—*Panizzi*, l. c. p. 406. n. 4930.

"I never saw scientific men go right, or view things as other people do."—*Panizzi*, l. c. p. 407. n. 4933.

LONDON:  
SPOTTISWOODES and SHAW,  
New-street-Square.

## A SECOND LETTER,

&c. &c.

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British Museum, April 4 1849.

MY LORD,

In a Letter which I lately addressed to you as Chairman of the Commission on the British Museum, I restricted myself to the statement of some general principles regarding the management of the Library of Printed Books, and supported them by some statistical details.

As the principles then set forth were partly the result of my own experience in the management of a department in the Museum, strengthened by various authorities I had consulted for the purpose of correcting any misapprehension into which I might have fallen, I think it advisable to lay before your Lordship, in a second Letter, some of the facts and observations which I have collected, and which appear to support my views, though at the risk of bringing forward some facts already known to the Commissioners.

I may premise that the existence of good Catalogues of the works in the Library, and easy access to the books, are of vital importance to me in performing my duties in the Museum; and I am fully aware that they must be equally desirable to all engaged in similar pursuits, as well as to those who are occupied in any literary undertaking. I feel, consequently, that I am merely fulfilling a duty to the department over which I preside, and to the public, whose servant I am, in doing what I can to render the Library useful. I may also, I hope, be excused for observing that, though much valuable information may be obtained from literary



persons in general, and from the frequenters of the Reading-room in particular, there are many parts of the management of a Library which can only be cognisant to one acquainted with its internal organisation. The making of Catalogues and the management of a Library formed the favourite study of my father, who many years ago offered to make a Classed Catalogue of the works in the Museum; and I have inherited from him the same taste. I have therefore, during the many (nearly 30) years I have been employed in the Museum, either as an unpaid volunteer, or as an officer of the establishment, always taken great interest in the arrangement of the Library; and, in my numerous excursions to the Continent for Natural History purposes, I have made it a point to visit and examine the public and private Libraries of the different towns, and thus acquired some knowledge of the management of most of the larger Libraries on this side of the Alps.

I shall first enter into some details with regard to the Catalogue, and then proceed to the management of the Library, and the supply of works to the Reading-room.

I. In support of my suggestion for separating the Catalogue into Parts defined by Language,

I may state that Mr. Baber, when he submitted to the Trustees his plan for the new Alphabetical Catalogue on the 6th of May, 1834, proposed "to divide the labour of the same amongst the Librarians to be simultaneously employed on this undertaking, viz., to assign to Mr. Glover all the titles in the English language; to Mr. Panizzi all those in French, Italian, and other languages of the southern half of Europe; and to Mr. Horne all that embrace the productions of ancient Greek and Roman authors, as well as those written by authors of all nations in the Latin tongue. That the titles of works written in German, Danish, and all the various languages used in the northern half of Europe, be reserved for the inspection of a foreigner of sufficient qualifications, hereafter to be appointed for this special purpose." — *Rep. Sel. Comm. Brit. Mus.* 1836, App. 540.

It appears to me that if the Parts of the Catalogues were to be separately prepared, it would be better for the sake of uniformity and to insure the responsibility of each author, that they should be separately printed. I believe that the division of responsibility in the Catalogue here proposed is the chief reason that it has not to this day been completed, although a large sum of money and much labour have been expended on it; and this delay would have been avoided if the four Parts had been separately produced. I need scarcely point out the difficulties which must arise in printing in common with the English alphabet the titles of works written in Hebrew and languages akin to it, or in the Russian, modern Greek, and other languages, some of which possess letters having no equivalent in our alphabet.

The plan of dividing the Catalogues by languages has been partly adopted in the MS. Department, where separate Catalogues of the *Syriac*, of the *Arabic*, and of the *Ethiopic* MSS. have been published, and an arrangement is now making for a Catalogue of the *Persian*, by a person specially employed for the work; and if this system had been in use in the Printed-book Department when Dr. Bialloblotzky was employed on the Hebrew works, as Dr. Prevost is on the Chinese, we might have had their labours given to the world.

It is to me a great argument in favour of having the Catalogue of English works printed separately, that it will follow, as a necessary consequence, that the English part of the Library must be made more comprehensive. Sir Harris Nicolas has some very important remarks on this subject in his *Animadversions*, p. 36., where he says: "At present the deficiencies in English literature are so great, that the cheapest as well as the rarest books are often wanting."

The problem to be solved is, how to make an Index or Finding Catalogue the most easy of consultation. It is evident that the smaller the number of books in each subdivision of the list, the more easy will it be to find the work required; and the simplest and most natural division appears to be supplied by the language in which the books are written.



In a Classed Catalogue, where the divisions are determined by the classification, the works in all languages should be placed in one series.

II. I shall next refer to a few of the existing Catalogues of English Libraries, both alphabetical and classed, giving a slight indication of the size of the Catalogues, and, as far as these facts can be ascertained from very imperfect data, the Number of Persons employed, and the Time occupied in their Formation.

1. *The British Museum Library.* — The last Catalogue of this Library was published in 7 vols. 8vo, in 1819. It contains the titles of about 120,000 volumes arranged alphabetically (*Rep. B. M. App. i. 399.*), and was prepared by the two Librarians and an attendant, who had the other duties of their office to attend to. It was commenced in 1807, and printed and published in the middle of May, 1817.

Sir H. Ellis states, in a Report to the Trustees dated April 30. 1834, that “as soon as he was placed at the head of the Printed-book Department, in 1806, and Mr. Baber made Assistant-Keeper, the preparation of a new Alphabetical Catalogue of the Library was ordered by the Trustees, and undertaken by the two Librarians, jointly. Sir H. Ellis was answerable for the letters A to F, with P, Q, and R, comprising one half of the Catalogue. Mr. Baber took the other letters. The first revision and continuation of the Catalogue of 1787 were entered upon in March, 1807, and finished in May, 1809: all the titles of additional works up to that time were inserted. In the course of this first labour, defects and inaccuracies of a very extraordinary kind having been discovered in the original Catalogue (see *Report to the Trustees*, Feb. 1809), a second revision, or rather remodelling, of the old part was ordered, which commenced in March, 1809, and finished in November, 1810.

“The printing of the Catalogue in the octavo form began in December, 1810, and was finished on May 10. 1817. During

the progress of the work through the press Dr. Burney's large library came in, and towards the close that of Baron Moll, from Munich; all the articles contained in both of which, under such letters as had not been printed off, were inserted before the sheets were sent to press. The two Librarians, it is to be observed, could neither of them give their undivided attention to the printing of their respective portions of this Catalogue; much time being consumed by the other business of the department. The time occupied in the first revision was 1 year 11 months; in the second revision, 1 year 6 months; in printing, 5 years 5 months: in all, 8 years 10 months. The first and third volumes were also reprinted during this time. The work, for convenience' sake, was printed in half-sheets of eight pages. The volumes which Sir H. Ellis edited comprised 286 half-sheets, making close upon an average of five half-sheets, or forty pages, corrected per month. Mr. Baber proceeded at the same rate, and finished his portion of the work at the same time. Sir H. Ellis, at Mr. Heber's particular recommendation, gave long titles, as the Trustees will see by referring to the volumes, and *every title was collated with the proof-sheets.*"

2. *The King's Library in Kensington Palace.\** — A Catalogue was published in 3 vols. folio, London, 1820—1829.

This Library was removed to the British Museum in 1828. The number of books was about 61,250, exclusive of a very numerous assortment of pamphlets, principally contained in 868 cases, and requiring about 140 more cases to contain the whole. This Library, when transferred to the British Museum, was under the care of a Librarian, three Assistant-Librarians, two Extra Assistants and an Attendant. The Librarian had, in 1822, been employed 60, one of the Assistants 40, and the Attendant 36 years. (*Report of Select Comm. of H. of C.,*

\* The transfer of this Library to the Museum had an important effect on the Institution; for it was in the Report of the Committee above quoted that the present building now forming the Museum was first recommended to be commenced, and that "the part of it which shall be first begun should be appropriated for this Library."



April 18. 1823 ; reprinted *Rep. S. Comm. Brit. Mus.* App. i. 383.)

The Catalogue is printed in double columns ; and, besides this printed Catalogue, there is in manuscript in the Library a Catalogue in Classes, occupying 13 vols. folio, containing the titles of all the works systematically arranged. (See *Sir H. Ellis*, in *Rep. Comm. Brit. Mus.* 1835, i. 129. n. 1686.)

3. *Sir Joseph Banks's Library.* — This Library was added to the British Museum in 1827.

The well-known Catalogue of this Library, “*Catalogus Bibliothecæ Historico-Naturalis Josephi Banks, auctore Jona Dryander*,” 5 vols. 8vo, London, 1796, is classed, the classes being very minutely subdivided ; and, besides the books in the Library, contains all the papers on Natural History in the Transactions of Scientific and Literary Societies, and in other miscellaneous publications, inserted in their places in the classes. The last volume is an Alphabetical Index. It may be regarded as the best Catalogue of the kind that has ever been produced.

With this for a basis, there is no reason why a Catalogue of the Natural History works in the British Museum, including references to the Papers in Transactions, &c., should not be prepared and printed with very little delay, if a competent person were employed for the purpose.

The Catalogue contains nearly 21,000 titles, and the Library embraces the largest collection of Natural History works, Voyages and Travels, and Transactions of Societies, ever formed. Dr. Dryander, at the time the Catalogue was made had the care of *Sir J. Banks's Herbarium*, the most extensive in existence, as well as of the Library, and was also Librarian to the Royal Society.

4. *Sir Richard Colt Hoare's Library of Italian Topography.* — This Library was presented to the British Museum in 1825. It contained 1733 articles not then in the British Museum.

Sir Richard Colt Hoare, in 1812, printed “A Catalogue

of Books relating to the History and Topography of Italy, collected during the years 1786, 1787, 1789, 1790." It is a Classed Catalogue. Only twelve copies were printed, one of which is in the King's Library.

5. *The Hon. Mr. Grenville's Library.* — This Library is now annexed to that of the British Museum.

A Catalogue of a portion of it was printed during Mr. Grenville's lifetime, under the title of "Bibliotheca Grenvilliana; or, Bibliographical Notices of rare and curious Works, forming Part of the Library of the Right Hon. Thomas Grenville. By John Thomas Payne and Henry Foss." 2 vols. 8vo. London, 1842.

It is an Alphabetical Catalogue, printed in two columns, and furnished with an Index of Subjects. The authors observe, "With respect to the execution of our task, the entire responsibility rests with ourselves." A third volume, containing the remainder of the Library, has been since printed. It was executed by Messrs. Payne and Foss. They were paid £250 for it by the Trustees.

According to the account of this Library in the *Athenæum* (1847, p. 18—20.), evidently written by some person intimately conversant both with Mr. Grenville's Library and that of the Museum, — "The entire Library (in 1842) was said to consist of about 20,000 volumes. In point of *condition*, the Library is altogether unrivalled. Large paper copies abound, and most of the books are in russia and morocco binding, by Lewis and Mackenzie. We have heard it stated, that out of every five books the Museum has already four. This may be overcharged. In point of condition, at any rate, the Museum copies are generally inferior.

"We think it worth while here to quote the language of the bequest, as expressing a high conscientious motive, which we hope may be contagious. The following is the codicil to Mr. Grenville's will, by which the nation becomes heir to his Library:—

'I, the Right Hon. Thomas Grenville, do make, publish,



and declare this as and for a further Codicil to my last Will and Testament. With the warmest continued affection to the Duke of Buckingham and to my family, I feel it incumbent on me, upon further consideration, to cancel the bequest of my Library and Bookcases, as contained in my Will. *A great part of my Library has been purchased from the profits of a sinecure office given to me by the public; and I feel it to be a debt and a duty that I should acknowledge this obligation by giving that Library so acquired to the British Museum, for the use of the public.* I do therefore, by this Codicil, revoke the bequests contained in my Will of my Library to my great-nephew, Richard Duke of Buckingham and Chandos for life, with remainder to the senior male descendant of the head of my family as an heir-loom; and I do therefore give and bequeath my Library, such as it may be at the time of my death, to the Trustees of the British Museum, for the purposes thereof and benefit of the public. But I do not mean hereby to disturb the bequest made by my Will to the said Duke of such of my letters and papers as my executors may, on examination, consider worth being added to the large manuscript collections at Stowe.’”

It will thus be seen that the former owners of four Libraries which have been presented to the Museum considered it desirable that their books should be catalogued, and the Catalogues printed. If the titles in these four Catalogues and the books in the Catalogue of the Museum published in 1819 were cut out and arranged into one series, there would be formed at once a printed Catalogue of half the books in the Museum. It is to be regretted that copies of none of these Catalogues, with the exception of that of the King’s Library, are on the shelves of the Reading-room open to the readers.

6. *Bodleian Library, Oxford.* — The last Catalogue of this Library occupies three large volumes folio: it is closely printed in double columns, with titles of moderate length, and with a few cross references. It is, without exception, the best Alphabetical Catalogue I have seen, and the most



easy to consult; and it is not encumbered with any references to the duplicate copies, &c., in the Library.

This Library is under the care of one Librarian, two Under-Librarians, two Assistants, and two Attendants: these persons are all named by the Librarian; and some of them have other preferments or appointments.

The Catalogue contains at least 160,000 entries, and was prepared and printed in 7 years, viz., between Feb. 1838 and Feb. 1845, without any extra assistance.

By a Return to parliament presented this year, 1849, the Library contains about 220,000 volumes of printed books and 21,000 MSS.

Besides the general Catalogue above referred to, there are four other Catalogues of large collections of books, which have either been bequeathed to, or purchased by, the Library.

The Librarians also publish an Annual Report, containing an alphabetical list of all the works purchased, with the size, place of publication, and the price paid for them, an accurate statement of the receipt and expenditure on account of the Library, and a list of the works presented.

This Library appears to be a pattern which may be copied with advantage.

7. *Radcliffe Library, Oxford.*—There is a “Catalogue of the Works on Medicine and Natural History” contained in this Library, by Dr. J. Kidd, the Radcliffe Librarian, printed in Oxford in 1835. The works are divided into ten classes, with the titles in each class alphabetically arranged. It contains nearly 7000 works.

Among other cogent reasons which Dr. Kidd assigns for printing the Catalogue, he observes that “the knowledge of the contents of the Library, by leading to the knowledge of its deficiencies also, would tend to accelerate its improvement.”

8. *Queen's College, Cambridge.*—The Rev. Thomas Hartwell Horne published a Catalogue of this Library, in 2 vols. 8vo, in 1827.

The Library, according to the Preface, "now consists of nearly 30,000 volumes, amongst which there are no fewer than 700 volumes of Tracts upon every subject."

The Catalogue contains about 21,000 titles, arranged in classes, some of the classes in which the Library is the richest being very minutely subdivided, and it is furnished with three Indices: 1. of Subjects; 2. of Manuscripts; 3. of Books; the latter presenting all the works under their authors' names, or the subject on which they are written.

Mr. Horne was assisted by two scribes, and only visited Cambridge at intervals for six weeks or so at a time. The Catalogue was compiled and printed in  $4\frac{1}{2}$  years. It may be regarded as an example, on a small scale, of what the Museum Classed Catalogue, which Mr. Horne and five other gentlemen were employed to make, would have been, if it had been completed.

When making this Catalogue, Mr. Horne states that he found he could, on an average, finish 60 titles per day, or 10 per hour; according to which statement this Catalogue must have occupied him about  $1\frac{1}{4}$  year of actual labour, at 6 hours per day.

9. *The Royal Society*.—There is a Printed Catalogue of the Scientific Works in this Library, which appeared in 8vo in 1839.

This Catalogue was undertaken by Mr. Panizzi, who agreed to make it at the rate of £30 for every thousand titles the Catalogue might contain; "one third to be given to him when he had written the titles on slips of paper, another third when the titles were finally corrected for the press, and the remainder when the whole was printed off."

But while the titles were in the press a disagreement arose between Mr. Panizzi and the Council, which ended in an arbitration, and the Catalogue was eventually revised and printed by the Council.

There is no account of the time actually occupied on this Catalogue, but Mr. Panizzi stated before the Committee of



the House of Commons in 1836 (*Rep. S. Comm. B. M. ii. 40.*), that he could, "in forming an Alphabetical Catalogue, upon an average, go through fifty to sixty titles in six hours. I thought sixty to seventy, but I have learned at the Royal Society, where I worked by the number of titles, that I could scarcely do fifty in five hours on an average." He had no assistance whatever. They were full titles, "done as well as I could according to my contract, but not so well as I should wish the Catalogue of the British Museum to be compiled." He further on states that "he had received assistance" in taking down the books. According to this estimate, the completing of this Catalogue occupied about 2400 hours of continuous labour, or 16 months at 6 hours per day. It was commenced in 1831, and on the 9th of July, 1835, Mr. Panizzi reported to the Society that it would, in two or three days, be ready for press; and that it contained 24,000 titles. He was only engaged on it in the evening, after Museum hours, and during the recess.

See on the subject of this Catalogue: 1. Mr. Panizzi's Evidence before the Select Committee, 7th June, 1836, *Rep. p. 399.* and following. 2. A Letter to his Royal Highness the P. R. S. on the New Catalogue of the Library, now in the press, 8vo, 1837. 3. Observations on the Address of the President, and on the Statement of the Council to the Fellows of the R. S. respecting Mr. Panizzi, read 30th Nov. 1837, 8vo, 1837. Both by Mr. Panizzi. I cannot find them in the Museum Library.

10. *Royal College of Surgeons, London.*—The Catalogue of the Library of this College is printed in two 8vo volumes. The first was published in 1831, the second in 1840. The titles of each Part are alphabetically arranged. They contain together about 14,000 works or titles.

11. *The Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society of London.*—There is a Catalogue of the very valuable professional Library of the Society, in a rather closely printed 8vo

volume, published in 1844. It contains upwards of 13,000 works or titles.

The Society publishes every year a Supplement containing the books received since the printing of the Catalogue.

12. *The Literary Society of Newcastle-on-Tyne*.—This Society has lately printed a Catalogue of the books in its Library in a single 8vo volume (1848). The Library contains 25,000 volumes; the titles are classed, and reference is made to the principal Papers in the different Transactions and in other miscellaneous publications. There is a very full Index of Authors and Subjects.

The work was prepared under the superintendence of George Wailes, Esq., one of the Committee, and was printed in 4 months. The price to members is five shillings.

13. *Royal Institution of Great Britain*.—The Catalogue of the Library of this Society was prepared by Mr. William Harris, the Keeper of the Library, and forms an 8vo volume. It is methodically arranged with an Alphabetical Index of Authors. A second edition of this Catalogue, much improved and enlarged, was published in 1821.

This Catalogue has one peculiarity, in having the principal desiderata entered in their places. Mr. Harris remarks that “in the classes of *Scriptores Ecclesiastici*, p. 12., and *Auctores Classici*, p. 103., will be found many articles marked with a dagger (†), as not being in the Library at present, but it is hoped the increasing prosperity of the Institution will soon enable the patrons to place them there.” It contains between 9000 and 10,000 titles, and is a most useful work of the kind.

The Museum copy of this Catalogue is well thumbed, and thereby indicates the extensive use which would be made of a Classed Catalogue of the Museum Library.

14. *The London Institution*.—The Catalogue of the Library of this Society forms three thick volumes 8vo. The books are systematically classed, and divided into two series, the first



and third volumes containing the general Library and Index of Authors, the second the Tracts and Pamphlets.

The first Catalogue of the Library was simply alphabetical, and appeared in April, 1813; and a Supplement to it was published in 1830: but "the increase in the collection, and a perfect conviction of the very great and general utility of a Classed Catalogue, at length determined the Board of Management to undertake the production of the present work. The whole number of volumes now in the Library is about 27,000; and some idea may be formed as to their original value from the circumstance, that the sums paid for books, returned in the yearly Reports, between 1806 and 1812, amount to £16,532."

The first Catalogue of the Society was printed eight years after its institution, viz. in 1813; and the second edition, almost doubled in extent, was printed twenty-two years afterwards.

There are two Librarians; and many readers attend this Library, as well as most of those enumerated above.

15. *The London Library*.—This Society has a printed Catalogue, in one 8vo volume.

It first printed a Catalogue, containing titles of 13,000 volumes, in March, 1842, 10 months after its establishment; then a Supplement, containing 4000 volumes, in 1843; another in 1848, containing 3000 volumes; and, in October, 1848, a new edition, containing 32,600 volumes.

This Library is under the care of a Librarian (Mr. Cochrane) and 2 Assistants. It circulates about 150 volumes per day, and has a well-frequented Reading-room.

16. *The Advocates' Library, Edinburgh*.—There is a Catalogue of the general Library of this learned body, printed in folio, of which the first Part appeared in 1742, compiled by Mr. Thomas Ruddiman and Mr. Walter Goodhall, Keepers of the Library. It was begun in 1735, and all, except the last pages, printed in 1742. The second Part appeared in 1776, under the care of Mr. Alexander



Brown; and a third in 1807, containing the additions between these periods; each Part being arranged in alphabetical order.

There is a Catalogue of the Law Books in the Library, which was printed in an 8vo volume, in 1831, under the care of David Irving. It is an Alphabetical Catalogue, to which "it has been thought advisable to subjoin an Analytical Index, compiled by several individuals, each of whom is responsible for the accuracy of his own department."

It contains between 12,000 and 13,000 titles.

17. *Edinburgh Select Subscription Library*.—The Catalogue of this Association was published in one 8vo volume, in 1842, the year after its incorporation. It is arranged alphabetically, the pamphlets being placed under that general head in the series; and is followed by a classified Index, which is very minutely divided. It appears to have been compiled in 2 years.

It contains about 13,000 titles, irrespective of the pamphlets, which are numerous.

The Library is managed by a Librarian and a Clerk.

18. *Greenwich Society for the Diffusion of useful Knowledge*.—This Society, very shortly after its establishment, printed a Classed Catalogue of the works in its Library; and it has lately published a new edition.

It now contains upwards of 7000 volumes. The circulation of the works amounts to about 150 volumes per day. It is under the care of two youths.

19. *The Library of the Writers to Her Majesty's Signet*.—The Catalogue of this Library is in 4to. The first Part was printed in 1805, the second in 1820, the third in 1826, and the fourth in 1833. Each of these presents the works received subsequently to the compilation of the previous Part, arranged in alphabetical order. The whole is completed by a very full Index of Subjects, "which will be found in some measure to supply the great desideratum of a Classed Cata-

logue." It was wholly executed by Mr. Thomas Shiells, one of the Assistant-Librarians, and is rather closely printed in double columns.

20. *H. R. H. the Duke of Sussex's Library, Kensington Palace.* — "Bibliotheca Sussexiana: a Descriptive Catalogue, accompanied by Historical and Biographical Notices of the Manuscripts and Printed Books contained in the Library. By T. J. Pettigrew." 3 vols. 4to. 1827—1839.

The first volume contains the Manuscripts, the two others the Printed Books; all three are limited to Theology. The Manuscripts, Bibles, and Theological Works are classed according to the language in which they are written or printed.

21. *Earl Spencer's Library at Althorp.* — "Bibliotheca Spenceriana; or, a Descriptive Catalogue of the Books printed in the Fifteenth Century. By the Rev. Thomas Prognall Dibdin." 4 vols. 8vo. 1814, 1815.

This work is accompanied by an Index of Authors and of Editions.

22. *The Earl of Ellesmere's Library at Bridgewater House.* — "A Catalogue, Biographical and Critical, of the Early English Literature forming a Portion of this Library, by J. Payne Collier," was printed in a single volume 4to in 1837. It is furnished with an Index of Subjects, and each work is illustrated with biographical remarks and notes, and often with facsimiles.

23. *Sir Richard Colt Hoare's Library at Stourhead, Wilts.* — A Catalogue of this Library was privately printed entitled, "Catalogue of the Hoare Library at Stourhead, Co. Wilts." 8vo. London, 1840.

It was prepared by Mr. J. B. Nichols, and contains "the greater part of Sir R. Colt Hoare's Catalogue of the works relative to the History and Topography of England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland;" privately printed in 1815.

The works are classed under 16 heads.

I need not add that this enumeration affords but a small sample of the multitude of similar Catalogues that might be instanced. I have merely cited a few examples applicable to almost every variety of Library, showing that the same principle (that of a printed Catalogue) has been regarded as essential to the benefit to be derived from all. It will be observed in a majority of instances that the Catalogues are more or less classed.

The following Table exhibits the result in some of the principal Libraries mentioned, with regard to the number of volumes or titles enumerated in the several Catalogues, and the time, whenever it could be ascertained, occupied in their more express preparation and printing:—

	Vols.	Titles.	Time.
British Museum, 1819 -	120,000	—	5 years 5 m.
King's Library - -	65,250		
Banks's Library - -	—	21,000	
Bodleian Library - -	—	160,000	7 years.
Radcliffe Library (Medicine)	—	7,000	
Queen's College Library -	30,000		
Royal Society - -	—	24,000	1 year 4 m.
Royal College of Surgeons	—	14,000	
Medical and Chirurgical Society	—	13,000	
Newcastle Literary Society	25,000	—	4 months in printing.

I am not aware that there is any complete recently printed General Catalogue of the books in any of the largest Continental Libraries; but most of the German Libraries at least have published a number of partial Catalogues of peculiar or selected portions of their collections. I may, however, quote the following; and there are many others which might be cited:—

1. *Bibliothecæ Casanatensis Catalogus Librorum Typis impressorum Sanctissimo Domino Nostro Clementi XIII. dicatus.* 4 vols. folio. Romæ, 1761—1788.

This Catalogue was compiled under the superintendance of

J. B. Audiffredi, the Chief Librarian. It stopped at the letter K, after being 27 years in the press. It is printed in double columns. The author's name is often followed by a very short biographical notice, indicating the date of his birth, death, &c. To the Catalogue are prefixed the rules used in forming it, and the place of each book in the Library is marked after its title. At the end of each letter is an Appendix of the new works received.\*

In the Dedication occur, amongst others, the following reasons for printing the work :—

“ Beatissime Pater, intelligebamus Tibi, qui Religionis a Deo institutæ supremus antistes sis, omnino deberi Catalogum ejus Bibliothecæ, qui veluti armamentarium quoddam instructissimum Religionis esset ; quemque eam ob rem et adornari curavimus, et typis sane non inelegantibus imprimi voluimus, tum ut ipsius Bibliothecæ usus *facilior fructuosiorque eis præsertim, qui ad ipsam ventitarent, efficeretur ; tum ut ejusdem utilitas vel in remotissimas mundi plagas, ope ipsius Catalogi, quodammodo permaneret.*” — p. vi.

In the Preface, p. xviii., the author observes : “ In Catalogo hoc conscribendo non tam propositum nobis fuit studiosos docere de summa librorum in nostra Bibliotheca exstantium (quod vel facere solent Bibliopolæ), quam eorum, qui in Bibliothecam conveniunt, commodo prospicere. Eam ob rem non tam ipsa volumina, quam eorum partes, variæque eorum editiones, varia denique loca, ex quibus eæ peti possent, indicanda nobis fuere. Hinc consequens erat, ut vel res, quæ parvi momenti alicui forsân videatur, Epistola puta, Diploma, vel Epigramma, nonnunquam tribus quatuorve in locis exstare indicaretur.”

2. *Catalogus Bibliographicus Librorum in Bibliotheca Academicæ Theresianæ extantium (a Josepho de Gastori digestus) ; cum Indice triplici.* 13 vols. 4to. Viennæ, 1802—1806.

This Catalogue presents a Classed List, not only of all the

\* It may be remarked that M. Brunet, who finds great fault with Dibdin and Lowndes for their inaccuracy, makes two mistakes with respect to this Catalogue. He says it is by P. Audiffredi, instead of J. B. ; and that it leaves off at I, instead of K (edit. 3 1820, p. 348.) : but he too is sometimes very inaccurate about Christian names, &c.



works in the Library, but of the memoirs, &c. contained in them.

3. *Catalogue des Livres imprimés de la Bibliothèque du Roi (disposé par les Abbés Sallier et Boudot et autres)*. 6 vols. folio. Paris, 1729—1753.

This is a Classed Catalogue: the first, second, and third volumes are appropriated to Theology, and contain about 18,000 titles; the fourth and fifth comprise Belles Lettres, and about 15,000 titles; the sixth contains Canon Law, with about 4500 titles, being the first part of Jurisprudence. The other divisions of this section, and the other two sections into which the Library was to be divided, have not been printed. There is an Index of Authors for each series of volumes.

In the "Mémoire historique" are the following observations:—

"Quoyque les Catalogues semblent n'estre faits que pour l'intérieur de la Bibliothèque, cependant l'expérience fait voir que ces sortes d'ouvrages sont d'un très-grand utilité, lors mesme qu'ils ne contiennent qu'un simple énoncé des titres et des pièces contenues dans chaque volume.

"Quelles obligations la République des Lettres n'a-t-elle pas aux Anglois d'avoir donné les Catalogues des livres que renferment leurs Bibliothèques? Celuy d'Oxford est d'une utilité reconnue, par le grand nombre des livres qu'il contient, et par l'ordre alphabétique qu'on leur a donné. Il y a eu divers sentiments sur la manière dont on disposeroit ce Catalogue afin de la rendre plus commode pour l'usage de la Bibliothèque, et pour celuy des particuliers. Il sembloit d'abord que l'ordre alphabétique estoit le meilleur que l'on pust choisir; et plusieurs personnes estoient d'avis qu'en suivant la méthode du Catalogue d'Oxford on disposât celuy-cy par l'alphabet des noms des auteurs, en mettant les anonymes sous le nom de la matière dont ils traitent, mais cet ordre n'a pas esté généralement approuvé et a paru insuffisant; on aime à voir ensemble dans un mesme article tous les livres qui regardent une mesme



matière, comme toutes éditions de la Bible, toutes celles des Pères, tous les livres d'Histoire, de Médecine, des Belles Lettres," &c.

4. *Catalogue des Livres de la Bibliothèque du Conseil d'Etat.* Par A. A. Barbier. 2 vols. folio. An. xi. (1803).

This collection contains 10,051 titles, arranged in classes. M. Barbier observes: "On a adopté, pour l'impression de ce Catalogue, un classement méthodique des ouvrages, qui présente beaucoup plus de difficultés, mais aussi beaucoup plus d'avantages, que l'ordre alphabétique des auteurs. En effet un Catalogue rangé de cette dernière manière, avec quelque érudition et quelque exactitude qu'il soit composé, n'est autre chose qu'un dictionnaire." — *Avertissement*, p. 1.

5. *Catalogus Librorum impressorum Bibliothecæ Regiæ Academiæ Upsaliensis.* (P. F. Aurivillius.) 3 vols. 4to. Upsaliæ, 1814.

The first and second volumes contain an Alphabetical List of the Books and Music in the Library, under the authors' names, preceded by some interesting historical and bibliographical notices; the third, the Bibles, Transactions of Academies, Journals, and anonymous Publications, arranged in classes, according to the subjects. It was published by subscription; the king, Charles XIII., taking 10 copies, and there were 133 other subscribers. It is said to contain 50,000 volumes, and more than 20,000 works.

The third Appendix gives a List of the works in the Royal Society of Upsal not in the University Library.

I will also cite some more recent Catalogues of Foreign Libraries: —

1. *Catalogue de la Bibliothèque Publique de Genève, rédigé par Louis Vaucher.* 1 vol. 8vo. Geneva, 1834.

This is a Classed Catalogue, containing 20,000 titles; accom-

panied by an Index of Authors, with very short distinctive titles, and a second one of anonymous works. It was edited by M. Vaucher, the honorary Librarian, assisted by a commission consisting of the Professors of the University and two booksellers.

M. Vaucher observes: "Comme la première condition qu'il faut remplir pour faciliter l'usage d'une Bibliothèque est de faire connoître à ceux qui la fréquentent les secours qu'elle peut leur fournir, ils ont accordé les fonds nécessaires pour couvrir les frais d'impression du Catalogue qui est publié aujourd'hui."— p. xxi.

The Catalogue was some years in preparation: but it must be recollected that all, except the writing out of the titles (which was done by three theological students in two years), was dependent on the voluntary assistance of persons who had other arduous occupations; and that their labours were not to be published on their responsibility, though they must have been best acquainted with the wants of the persons studying the sciences which they professed, but submitted to the editorship of a single person, who was not appointed until six years after the copying of the titles was finished, and who wished to have a uniformity in the Catalogue which is not easily attainable, nor, in my mind, very essential.

2. *Katalog der Commerz-Bibliothek in Hamburg*, 1841. 4to. Hamburg. *Erste Fortsetzung*, 1844.

This is a Classed Catalogue, containing about 30,000 works, very minutely divided, with rather long titles, and an Alphabetical Index of Authors. It is very neatly printed in double columns. The Library is open from 11 to 3, and is under the care of two Librarians.

There are four preceding Catalogues of this Library, viz.: 1st, 1750; 2d, 1762; 3d, 1771; 4th, 1789.

3. *Möller (J. H.): Catalogus Librorum tam Msstor. quam impressor. qui Jussu D. Augusti Ducis Saxo-Gothani a b.*

*Seetzenio in Oriente emti in Bibliotheca Gotham asservantur.*  
2 Partes. Gothæ, 1826. 4to.

4. *Neumann (J. G.): Verzeichniss der Bücher der Oberlausitz Gesellschaft.* 2 Bde. Görl. 1819. 8vo. 32,000 volumes. Görlitz.
5. *Besser (J. F.): Verzeichniss der Bibliothek d. Güstrowsch. Domschule.* 2 Hefte. Güstrow, 1810—1816. 4to. 14,000 volumes.
6. *Verz. der Bücher Samml. der Clubbs des Freundschaft.* Hamb. 1844. 8vo. 5000 volumes.
7. *Catal. der Bibliothek der Juristischen Lesegesellschaft in Hamburg.* Hamb. 1842. 8vo.
8. *Catal. der Bibliothek der Harmonie zu Hamburg.* Hamb. 1837. 8vo. *Fortsetz.* i. and ii. 1839—1841. 8vo.
9. *Catalogus Librorum qui in Bibliothecâ Universitatis Litterariæ Fredericæ Gulielmæ Berolinensis adservantur (M. Pinder).* Berolini, 1839. *Supplement*, 1842.  
This is a Classed Catalogue, with an Index of Authors, containing 6200 titles, printed in double columns. The Supplement contains about 2000 additional works.
10. *Verz. der Bibliothek der Kön. Märk. Oekonom. Gesellsch. in Potsdam.* Potsdam, 1828. 8vo. 2. Aufl. 1830. 3. Aufl. 1836. 8vo.
11. *Neubronner (W.): Verz. der wichtigst. Werke der Stadtbibliothek zu Ulm.* Ulm, 1842. 4to. 20,000 volumes.
12. *Catalogus Librorum Bibliothecæ Tigurinæ.* 6 tom. Tigur. 1744—1809. 8vo. Zurich. 50,000 volumes.
13. *Verz. System. der bei der Justiz-Canzlei fundirt. Jurist. Bibliothek.* Hannov. 1807. 8vo.
14. *Catalogus Libror. qui in Bibliotheca Acad. Lausannensi asservantur, Auct. Ph. Vicat.* 1792. 8vo. *Supp.* i.—iii. Laus. 1800—1829. 8vo.

15. *Katalog der Mandatarialsbibliotheken zu Linz u. Steyer.*  
11. Aufl. Linz, 1843. 8vo.
16. *Verzeichniss der Büchersammlung des Gewerbevereins zu Dresden.* Dresden, 1842. 8vo. *Fortsetzung* i. 1842. 8vo.
17. *Sinner (J. R.): Catalogus Libror. impressor. Bibliothecæ Bernens.* 2 tom. 8vo. Bern. 1764. *Supplementa ad Catalog.* 8vo. 1784; ed. 2. auct. Bern. 1812. 8vo. 40,000 volumes of printed books, 20,000 MSS.
- The Town and Burgher Library of Berne is under the care of a Librarian, an Under-Librarian, and an Attendant. 500 persons use the Reading-room, and about 2000 books are lent out in the year. (*Petz. Adr.* 1848, 19.)
18. *Catalog der Lyceums Lesevereins-Bibliothek in Constanz.* Const. 1833. 8vo. 14,000 volumes.
19. *Katalog der Bibliothek der technischen Bildungsanstalt zu Dresden.* Dresden, 1843. 8vo. 3000 volumes.
20. *Verzeichniss systemat. der Büchersammlung der Oekonomischen Gesellschaft in Königreiche Sachsen.* Dresd. 1822. 8vo. 2500 works, in 7500 or 8000 volumes and parts.
21. *Katalog der Biblioth. des K. Preuss. Ober-appellat. u. höchsten Gerichts zu Greifswald (bes. von T. H. Sonnenschmidt).* Strals. 1844. 8vo.
22. *Katalog der Aarawischen Kantonsbibliothek.* Aar. 1825. 8vo. *Mit 7 Fortsetzungen,* 1827—1843. 60,000 volumes.
23. *Verzeichniss der zur k. Kanzleibibliothek in Baireuth gehörigen Bücher.* Bair. 1798. 8vo. *Desgleichen in dem J.* 1801, 1804, 1809, 1825, 1844. 14,000 vols. *Petz. ;* 25,000, *Ebert.*
24. *Catalogue des Livres composant la Bibliothèque de la Ville*

*de Bordeaux (par J. B. Monbalon). 5 vols. 8vo. Paris, 1830—1842.*

This is a Classed Catalogue. The first volume contains "Sciences and Arts," comprising nearly 10,000 titles; the second, "Histoire," with rather more than 9000 titles; the third, "Jurisprudence," with 3800 titles; the fourth, "Belles Lettres," with 5000 titles, and a Supplement to this Part printed in 1847; the fifth, "Théologie," with 8500 titles. It is very neatly and distinctly printed at the Royal Printing-office. The places the books occupy in the Library follow the titles.

25. *Gonod: Catalogue de la Bibliothèque de la Ville de Clermont-Ferrand.*

26. *Licquet (Theod.): Catalogue de la Bibliothèque de la Ville de Rouen. Rouen, 1830. 8vo. Confined to Belles Lettres.*

27. *Ducoin (P. A. A.): Catalogue des Livres que renferme la Bibliothèque Publique de la Ville de Grenoble, classés méthodiquement. 3 vols. 8vo. Grenoble, 1831—1839.*

This work is closely printed in double columns, and contains 28,872 titles, followed by a full Alphabetical Index of the works, under the authors' names.

"Il manquait à la Bibliothèque un Catalogue imprimé, et qui présentait dans un ordre méthodique le détail des richesses qu'elle renferme. Cette ouvrage a été commencé depuis 1826, en exécution d'une délibération prise par la commission administrative le 10 Janvier de la même année."

For Catalogues of other Foreign Libraries, consult T. H. Horne's *Introduction to the Study of Bibliography*, vol. ii. p. 564. ; Petzholdt's *Adressbuch deutscher Bibliotheken*, Dresden, 1848. 8vo. &c.

The latter, under the head of each Library, gives a list of many such partial Catalogues, often prepared by the first men



in the country, for the respective Parts. From his interesting and very accurate work, we learn that the Berlin Library has printed and published fifteen such works, the Royal Library of Dresden fourteen or fifteen, and the Göttingen University Library five.

But though it may not be the usual custom of large Foreign Libraries to print their General Catalogues (deterred, probably, in the larger, by the question of expense), yet I can assert from experience that most of them (the German, in particular) have excellent manuscript Catalogues for the use of their Librarians. Mr. Panizzi informs us that there is a Classed and an Alphabetical Catalogue, containing between 200,000 and 300,000 articles, in the Göttingen Library, which is nearly kept up with the accessions. (*Rep. Comm. B.M.* 1836, ii. 399. 397.) On the other hand, I think I have shown, by the foregoing account, that it is the established custom of English Librarians to publish Catalogues. Whether the Library is as large as the Bodleian, a private collection of consequence like Mr. Grenville's or your Lordship's own, or only a small Library such as that of a Mechanics' Institution, the printing of the Catalogue is, in the opinion of its librarian, committee, or proprietor, a *sine qua non*. It may be a national peculiarity, perhaps (as I have been told) a weakness or even a folly, but it is one which I hope to see continued, and followed out at the British Museum, with the addition of Classed Catalogues of the several departments of literature.

That there is no extraordinary difficulty in producing Catalogues of Libraries which are in progress of enlargement is, I think, proved by the fact, that many such Catalogues have been actually formed; which is a far more convincing argument than volumes of reasons why they cannot possibly be made. For example, there have been published two Catalogues of the printed books in the Museum, three of the books of the Bodleian Library; and many smaller Libraries

have followed the same example, while others publish from time to time a supplement.

Mr. Baber, in his Report to the Trustees, dated 26th April, 1834, appears not to have foreseen any difficulty "in the construction of a Catalogue which it is intended should embrace the entire number of the printed works in the Museum, yielding at least 300,000 titles," for he states: "Should the Trustees deem it expedient that a new Alphabetical Catalogue upon the plan above specified should be begun without delay, and executed in the shortest time possible that the work, *to be accurately and in every respect creditably performed*, would admit of, it could only be done by appointing a *competent officer* of the Printed-book Department, *to be exclusively occupied upon this work, aided by three sufficiently qualified assistants*, one of whom should be well versed in the German and other northern languages; and by further placing at their disposal the whole series of the titles as at present transcribed. In this state the titles or slips might be sent to the press.

"Mr. Panizzi's age, activity of mind, and various literary acquirements, eminently qualify him as the superintending officer of this work, which *employment he would cheerfully accept, and engage to accomplish in five or six years from its commencement, provided that he should have the assistance of three well-educated young men*, such as the gentlemen employed upon the Catalogues, under Mr. Forshall's superintendence, in the Manuscript Department. If this extensive and desirable work were thus taken in hand, Mr. Baber feels that it would be performed creditably to the parties engaged upon it, and hence to the satisfaction of the Trustees; be eminently useful to the public, and worthy to rank with the most celebrated production of its kind.

"If the Catalogue should be three years in going through the press, it would have proceeded with as much despatch as it ought, consistently with its being performed correctly and creditably."—*Rep. Sel. Comm. Brit. Mus.*, App. ii. 536, 537.

The late Mr. John Cochran, in giving evidence before the Select Committee in 1836 (see *Rep. Sel. Comm. B. M.*, ii. 278.), stated that there was no difficulty in preparing either an Alphabetical or Classed Catalogue, or both simultaneously. He observes:

“ I would first catalogue the books in the order in which they are upon the shelves, making two copies of each title. I would then arrange one set of titles alphabetically, and at the same time place the other set in the classes to which they belong, so that they could go on simultaneously. The only additional expense of classing the Catalogue would be the second transcription of the titles.”

To give some idea of the importance which the German booksellers attach to Catalogues, both alphabetical and classed, I may mention that they publish, half-yearly or quarterly, lists of all the German works which have appeared in the preceding period. I have nearly regularly sent to me three such works, viz. :

1. *Thun's Neues Bücherverschaffungen*. 8vo. This is an Alphabetical Catalogue which appears quarterly, and is preceded by a classed list of the works.

2. *Verzeichniss der Bücher, Landkarter*, u.s.w. 12mo.

3. *Viertel-Jahrs Catalog alle neuen Erscheinungen in Feld der Litteratur in Deutschland*. 8vo.

The two latter are both published by Heinrich of Leipsic; the former appears twice a year, with the books arranged in alphabetical order, and with a Classed Index of Subjects; the latter comes out every three months, with the titles systematically arranged in twenty-three sections, and is furnished with an Alphabetical Index of Authors and Subjects. The Catalogues are published so closely after the end of the period to which they refer, that I received those for the end of December, 1848, here in England, before the beginning of February.

As specimens of a superior class of German booksellers' Catalogues, I may mention :

1. *Index Librorum Historiam Naturalem spectantium.* By *W. Engelman.* 8vo. Leipsic, 1846.

This Catalogue contains a classified list of works on general Natural History, Zoology, and Palæontography, published between 1700 and 1846. It is accompanied by a very full Index of Authors and Subjects, and contains upwards of 10,000 titles. It is one of the most useful books of the kind, but has the defect of separating the works published in Germany from the others in each class.

This author has in the press a continuation, containing the botanical books; and he has also published :

2. *Bibliotheca Medico-Chirurgica et Anatomico-Physiologica,* Leipsic, 8vo, 1848, which is an Alphabetical Catalogue of the Medical, Chirurgical, Anatomical, and Physiological Works published in Germany between 1750 and 1847. It is furnished with a very full Index of Subjects, and contains about 17,000 titles of works.

As showing the importance which booksellers and publishers here attach to the formation of Catalogues, it is hardly necessary to state that most of the large publishing houses print lists of works published during the month or year, and several attach to them a Classified Index. Besides these are published such works as the following: —

1. *London Catalogue of Books published in Great Britain, with their Sizes, Prices, and Publishers' Names, from 1814 to 1846.* By *T. Hodgson.*

This Catalogue is an Alphabetical List of Works, containing between 36,000 and 37,000 titles. It is principally intended for booksellers; but it is so generally useful, that, when I lately sent for it from the Reading-room, I was

begged to return it directly, "as it was in constant use there, more than 100 times a day."

2. *Bibliotheca Londinensis: A Classified Index of the Literature of Great Britain during Thirty Years, arranged from, and serving as a Key to, the London Catalogue of Books, 1814—1846, which contains the Title, Size, Price, and Publisher's Name of each work.* 8vo. London, 1848.

This is a Classed Index to the former work by the same publisher.

Besides these works and others of the same kind, as Bent's *Register*, Lowe's *Annual Catalogue*, &c., which are printed by booksellers, there are Catalogues composed for the use of Librarians and Book-collectors, containing bibliographical particulars, prices, &c. : —

1. *Watt (Rob.): Bibliotheca Britannica: or a General Index of the Literature of Great Britain and Ireland, Ancient and Modern.* 2 vols. 4to. 1819.

The first volume contains the books arranged according to the authors' names, and the second according to the subjects. A most useful work, but spoiled by having been copied over many times before it was sent to press (see preface), showing the danger of being over-particular before printing.

2. *Lowndes (W. T.): The Bibliographer's Manual of English Literature, containing an Account of rare, curious, and useful Books, published in, or relating to, Great Britain and Ireland, from the Invention of Printing, &c.* 2 vols. 8vo. London, 1834.

This work contains notices of upwards of 50,000 distinct works. It is closely printed in two columns. The state of the Reading-room copy shows how much it is used.

3. *Kayser (C. G.): Index locupletissimus Librorum qui inde ab Anno 1750, usque ad Annum 1832, in Germania et in Terris confinibus prodierunt.* 6 vols. 4to. Leipsic, 1834—1836. And a *Sacheregister by Ludwig Schuman*, 1 vol. 4to,

Leipsic, 1838; being a classification of the works in the Alphabetical Catalogue.

There is a similar work by *Heinsius*, continued to 1841 by *Schultz*. 4to. Leipsic, 1842 to 1848.

4. *Querard (J. M.): La France Littéraire; ou Dictionnaire Bibliographique des Savants, Historiens, et Gens de Lettres de la France; ainsi que des Littérateurs étrangers qui ont écrit en Française, plus particulièrement pendant les XVIII. et XIX. Siècles.* 10 vols. 8vo. Paris, 1830.

Supplements up to 1846 (2½ vols.) have been published; and another is printing. The Catalogue also contains references to the Papers which the different authors have printed in various Transactions, Journals, and other periodical publications. The names are followed by a short biography. *M. Querard* was a bookseller's assistant.

5. *Brunet (J. C.): Manuel du Libraire et de l'Amateur des Livres, contenant: 1. un Nouveau Dictionnaire Bibliographique; 2. une Table en Forme de Catalogue Raisonné, où sont classés methodiquement tous les Ouvrages indiqués dans le Dictionnaire, et un grand Nombre d'autres Ouvrages utiles mais d'un Prix ordinaire.* 4 vols. 8vo. Paris, 1820. Third Edition. *Supplement to 1834.* 3 vols. 8vo. Paris, 1834.

There is a new edition, 1842 to 1844. The edition of 1820 contains 17,743 titles.

6. *Barbier (A. A.): Dictionnaire des Ouvrages anonymes et pseudonymes, composés, traduits, ou publiés en Française et en Latine.* Ed. 2. 4 vols. 8vo. 1822—1827.

The first edition appeared in 1806, and contained 12,403 titles, which, in the second, were increased to 23,647. It is furnished with a very full Index.

There are many other such works, as those of *Salva*, *Melchi*, *Gamba*, &c., but the above are the most useful.

If copies of the Catalogues of *Lowndes*, *Watt*, and *Hodgson* for English works, of *Querard* and *Barbier* for French works, of *Kayser* for German works, of the Bodleian Library,

and some of the other Catalogues quoted, were placed in the Reading-room, with the books which are in the Museum Library marked on the margin, they would be exceedingly useful to the readers until superseded by better.

The time occupied in marking the margin of these works would be well spent, as it would point out the riches or poverty of the collection with regard to modern literature, and give the Keeper of the Library the power of knowing what are the desiderata. But Lowndes's work is the only one of the series kept on the shelves of the Reading-room, and that is not marked.

These works, and others of the same kind in other departments of literature, offer great assistance to any person employed in forming a Classed Catalogue of the works in the British Museum, and to those also who might be employed in making a list of the desiderata.

III. I do not think that the question which has been frequently asked, whether a Classed Catalogue would sell enough to pay its expenses, is important; for there can be no doubt that it is quite as legitimate an object for the Trustees of the Museum to expend a part of the annual grant (even if it should yield no pecuniary return) in making the books in the Library useful, as to expend it solely in the purchase of books themselves.

On this subject, however, I may mention a few facts.

The high price which Dryander's Catalogue always commands shows both its use and the high estimation in which it is held.

With regard to Engelman's Catalogue, I believe there is scarcely a zoologist of any attainments in this country who does not consider its possession indispensable, and its sale must have been considerable.

Wood's Catalogue of Natural History Works has gone through two editions, and is much sought after though very imperfect, as are also the Catalogues of Bohn, Cochran, Maynard, Salva, and other extensive dealers in second-hand books.



Reuss's Repertorium, a classified list of papers in different Transactions, is a work that has had a considerable sale.

Naturalists have felt so much the want of a list of works in their several departments, that Professor Agassiz was induced to commence forming an Index Catalogue of Works and Papers in different Transactions and Journals; and the Ray Society, learning that this work was not likely to be proceeded with, on account of the other occupations of the distinguished compiler, purchased the proofs and papers, and are now publishing it as one of the works of that Society.

I am satisfied that, if there were a Catalogue of the Natural History Books in the Museum Library published in a cheap form, it would have a very extensive sale; and I feel assured that many booksellers even would adopt it as a Sale Catalogue.

The extensive use made of some of the Classed Catalogues and of Watt's Bibliotheca in the Reading-room of the British Museum, proves, I think, how much such works are wanted and valued.

I feel assured that the same would be the case with regard to works on theology, heraldry, geography, arithmetic, mathematics, &c. Indeed, so strongly is the want of such works felt, that every now and then a book of the kind is put forth by some active individual, who has not the opportunities of forming so good a Catalogue as a person employed for the purpose by the Museum would have; as, for example:

1. *Moule: Bibliotheca Heraldica.* 4to. 1842.
2. *Dibdin (T. F.): Introduction to the Knowledge of the Editions of Greek and Roman Classics.* 8vo. 1827.
3. *De Morgan (A.): Arithmetical Books.* 8vo. 1847.

Several such works have also been privately printed, and are therefore rare and only accessible to a few, such as Sir R. C. Hoare's Catalogue of Books relating to the History and Topography of England, &c. 1815, and of Italy, 1812.

Much interesting evidence on this subject was given before the Select Committee of the House of Commons in 1836.

The late Mr. John Cochran (*Rep. Comm. B. M.*, ii. 278.) states in 1836:—

“This is a Classed Catalogue of my books which I published in the year 1824. It is considered a very useful book of reference to this day, and, being scarce, it usually sells at a price beyond that at which I published it. This Catalogue still contains perhaps the best collection of theological works; it is so full, that in most cases it is an index to my stock even now. I am sure it would be very desirable to every one connected with literary pursuits to have a Classed Catalogue of the extensive and valuable collection of printed books and manuscripts contained in the British Museum.

“The British Museum contains a very good collection of theological books; at the same time I know that considerable deficiencies exist in that department, which, if a Classed Catalogue existed, I should be far more able, perhaps, to point out.”

The late Mr. John Murray, well-known for his judgment as a publisher (see *Rep. Sel. Comm. H. of C.*, ii. 305.), stated: “When I saw the Catalogue in the King’s Library in folio, it induced me to reflect, and for many years I have been thinking on the subject, and I can give my opinion that I, an individual publisher, think I could venture to publish such a Catalogue at my own expense.—My own opinion is that it would be commercially a valuable publication, if it were given to me thoroughly digested. Were I to undertake the publication I should publish it in Parts. I would not undertake to say I would go on provided it should turn out a loss, but my opinion is that it would not do so.—To publish a Classed Catalogue would be ten times more valuable than an Alphabetical Catalogue.—I think it would be of the greatest value in the world. I am enabled to state that a Classed Catalogue, according to the plan just suggested, would, in my opinion, be a very valuable thing indeed; that I conceive that literature is now so much cultivated and extended over the whole country, that if the



Catalogue were known to be in existence, and thoroughly advertised and published as any other book, vast numbers of people throughout the kingdom would buy that Catalogue."

Sir Harris Nicolas, feeling the desirableness of Classed Catalogues, observed: "I have considerable doubt whether it (a Classed Catalogue of Printed Books) would have a sufficient sale to cover the expenses of publication." (n. 1681.) This evidently referred to a Catalogue of the whole Library. He then added: "I desire to see it published in Parts, and for this reason, that as a certain portion was done it would immediately become available to the public, without waiting for a long and indefinite period for the completion of the whole. — In many cases the completion of a Part would satisfy the wants of a particular class of literary or scientific men; for example, the section of the scientific division which included mathematics would be important to mathematicians, and of astronomy to astronomers; so in literature, the historical division would satisfy the wants of historians." — *Rep. Sel. Comm. H. of C.* 1836, ii. 299. n. 3682.

"But I may add, that in my opinion it is absolutely necessary that such a (Classed) Catalogue of the Library of the British Museum should exist, and that the expense of forming it ought not to be an obstacle to its compilation and publication, though, of course, it would be well to reduce the expense by promoting the sale of the work, both in Parts and as an entire work when complete. I think it is almost a *sine quâ non*, if the contents of the Library of the British Museum are really to be made useful to the public." — *Sir Harris Nicolas, Rep. Sel. Comm. H. of C.* 1836, p. 300.

On this point all these authorities are at issue with Mr. Panizzi, who stated, in reply to the questions of Mr. Hawes: "*Do you disapprove of the forming of a Classed Catalogue?*" "I do." — "*Entirely?*" "Entirely." In another place he observes: "*I have a great objection to what are called Classed Catalogues. I think it impossible to make a good one. I never heard of any. I never heard of two men agreeing on the*

plan of a Classed Catalogue. — Not one of those who speak of a Classed Catalogue, scientifically arranged, if they would honestly confess it, ever uses one."—*Rep. Sel. Comm. on Brit. Mus.* 1836, ii. 399 – 409.

In another page, however, he admits its use for one important purpose, and observes: "As for ascertaining whether in the Library there is a particular book on a particular subject, whose author's name is not known, as we *have not a Classed Catalogue* or Index of Matters, that information cannot be got *so well as if we had* an Index of Matters, but it can be supplied with a little patience."—L. c., p. 401. n. 4874.

Consult, under this head, Mr. Panizzi on Foreign Libraries, in *Report of Select Comm. Brit. Mus.* 1836, p. 546.; by which it appears that the following Libraries have:

1. *Classed and Alphabetical Catalogues.*—Basle, Berlin, Bruxelles, Buda (University), Cassel, Copenhagen, Florence (Palatine), Frankfort, Göttingen, Leyden, Lisbon, Madrid, Milan (Brera and Ambrosiana), Munich, Naples, Orleans, Paris (Roy. Lib., St. Génévieve, Mazarin, and Institute), Parma, Turin, Vienna, Naples.

2. *A Classed Catalogue, with Index of Authors.*—Florence (Magliabecchiana), Geneva, Hague.

3. *An Alphabetical Catalogue only.*—Florence (Riccardiana and Marucelliana), Venice, Presl, Buda.

This may suffice to show that Foreign as well as English Librarians consider Classed Catalogues necessary.

Mr. Panizzi, in 1836, observes: "An Index of Matters to an Alphabetical Catalogue is a much more useful thing than a Classed Catalogue. It is more easily done, and it can be carried on at the same time with the Alphabetical Catalogue; because, when you have, say 50,000 or 60,000 titles already catalogued, there is no objection to beginning indexing these." (*Rep. Select Comm. B. M.*, ii. 399. n. 4850.) Such an Index, I have no doubt, would be very useful to desultory readers; but it is no substitute for a Classed Catalogue, any more than a technical dictionary is for a systematic treatise on a subject,

or than an alphabetical index is for a systematic table of contents to an extensive work. An Index to an Alphabetical Catalogue with 500,000 entries should, to be useful, be as large as the Catalogue itself, as most of the titles must appear under many heads. It must, when published, form only a single work, and, therefore, be costly; while the Classed Catalogues might appear in Parts, so that each person could, at a small expense, have the Catalogue of the books of the subject he studies. The volume of subjects of Watt's Bibliotheca, which is the only extensive attempt of the kind I have seen, is quite useless for any continued object of study; hence such Indices have not been usually adopted.

#### IV. With regard to the Time occupied in cataloguing Books.

Mr. Panizzi has stated: "I learned at the Royal Society, where I worked by the number of titles, that I could scarcely do 50 in 5 hours on an average" (that is, 10 per hour). The payment being at the rate of £30 for each thousand when printed and ready for publication, this was at the rate of 6s. per hour. (See *Rep. Select Comm. on B. M.*, ii. 40.)

Mr. Hartwell Horne observes, that "from a careful estimate, severally made by Messrs. Baber, Cary, and Horne, as to the number of titles *per diem* which may be properly collated and arranged in conformity to all the minutiae laid down in the printed 'Outlines of a Library,' it does not appear that more than 60 articles *per diem* can be done," that is, in 6 hours, or 10 per hour.

The late Mr. John Cochran stated to the Committee in 1836 (*Rep. Comm. B. M.*, ii. 278.): "Some persons will do more than others, and therefore it would depend a good deal upon the talent of the persons employed upon it. Supposing 100 articles were catalogued by one person per day; of course, if ten persons were employed 1000 articles would be done. In naming 100 articles *per diem*, I am speaking of printed



books. I am aware that it requires longer time to catalogue manuscripts than printed books, because manuscripts often require a minute investigation into their contents before proper titles can be given."

"I can state what I have given myself for such work, and do pay at present, 2s. per hour. I have paid the sum stated for cataloguing manuscripts. I would not pay in the same proportion for cataloguing books, because I consider that to be a much easier task; but for cataloguing manuscripts I did obtain adequate assistance at that rate."

I find from enquiry that most booksellers consider 100 titles per day a fair proportion, but they reckon their days eight or ten hours long; and that the price mentioned by Mr. J. Cochran is that usually paid by them for the better class of work.

V. With reference to the increase in the Number of Persons employed in the Printed-book Department, compared with the number formerly employed under Mr. Baber, it may be interesting to contrast the number employed in the great Continental Libraries.

First, commencing with those of Germany, I find the following information in the last edition of Petzholdt's *Adressbuch deutscher Bibliotheken*, published at Dresden in 1848. I have made some additions concerning the state of the various Libraries in 1835, from the Report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons.

1. *The Royal Library in Berlin* contains 500,000 Volumes, and 10,000 MSS.; and has a Reading-room open to 4,000 readers, who make use of 100,000 volumes per year.

There are employed in it 15 persons, viz.: 1 Chief Librarian, 1 Librarian, 4 Assistants (Custodes), 1 Assistant for the Maps, 1 for Music, 1 Inspector of the Journal Reading-room, 1 Secretary, 4 Attendants, and 1 Housekeeper.

In 1835 the Chief Librarian held three other places, one of the Assistants is also Librarian of the University Library,



and the Inspector of the Reading-room is also Keeper of the Archives of the Academy of Sciences. (*Rep. Comm. B. M.* 1836, ii. App. No. 10. p. 166.)

In this Library the Magazines and Journals, both German and foreign, are placed in a room which is open to the Professors and readers, and, as will be seen by the list of officers, is under the special charge of an Inspector. If a similar plan were adopted here, it would be a great boon to all those who are desirous of knowing the daily progress of any science or art.

2. *The Royal Library of Dresden* consists of 300,000 Volumes, 2,800 MSS., 182,000 Dissertations, and 20,000 Maps. It has a Reading-room open to 3000 readers, using 12,000 volumes annually.

There are employed in this Library 11 persons, viz.: 1 Chief Librarian, 2 Librarians, 2 Secretaries, 3 Assistants, 1 Clerk (Canzlist), 2 Attendants (Aufwärter).

15 partial Catalogues of different parts or collections contained in this Library have been published.

In 1835 there appear to have been only 4 persons in charge of the Library, one of whose posts was vacant. (*Rep. Comm. B. M.* 1835, ii. 495.)

3. *The University Library of Göttingen* consists of 400,000 Printed Books, and 5000 MSS. It has a Reading-room open two days in the week.

There are employed 13 persons, viz.: 1 Librarian, 1 Under-Librarian, 4 Secretaries, 1 Keeper of the Engravings, &c., 4 Supernumerary Assistants partially employed, and 2 Beadles (Bedell).

There have been printed 4 Catalogues of parts of this collection.

4. *The Royal State Library of Munich* consists of 800,000 Volumes, viz.: 16,000 MSS., 13,000 Incunabula (Incunabeln), 250,000 Printed Books, 100,000 Dissertations, 300,000 Pamphlets (Broschuren). It has a Reading-room.

The Library is under the care of 9 persons, viz.: 1 Director or Chief Librarian, 1 Under-Librarian, 3 Assistants (Custodes), 3 Secretaries, and 1 Writer.

There have been printed 9 Catalogues referring to special parts of this collection.

5. *The University Library of Munich* contains 200,000 Volumes, and 2000 MSS., and is under the care of 3 persons, viz.: 1 Chief Librarian, 1 Librarian, and 1 Assistant (Custos).

There have been published 3 Catalogues of particular parts of this Library.

See also a long Report on both the Libraries and on other Institutions of Munich, by Professor von Martius, the celebrated botanist, in *Rep. Comm. Brit. Mus.* 1836, No. 10. p. 542.

6. *The Imperial Library of Vienna* contains 290,000 volumes of Printed Books, including 30,000 Dissertations, 30,000 Pamphlets (Flugschriften), 40,000 (Adligati), 12,000 Incunabula, 16,016 MSS. (of which 2789 are on parchment), 983 volumes of Engravings, 14 Portfolios, and 24 Cartoons, in all 300,000 Engravings, and 8612 volumes of Music.

This collection is under the care of 14 persons, viz.: 1 Director, 4 Librarians (Custodes), 4 Assistant-Librarians, or Transcribers (Scriptores), 2 Amanuenses, and 3 Attendants.

There have been published 24 partial Catalogues of this collection.

See, on the subject of this Library, Panizzi, *Rep. B. M.* 1836, No. 4774—4800.; Huish, 5006. to 5112., and Appendix 1836, ii. No. 10. p. 52.

7. *The University Library of Breslaw* contains 200,000 Volumes, with a Reading-room open one day per week to 3000 readers. It is under the care of 1 Librarian, 3 Assistants, 1 Secretary, and 4 Students, as amanuenses. They publish an annual List of Additions. (*Petz. Adress-buch*; 29. 1848.)

In the *Almanach Royal* for 1847, p. 1017., there is the following account of the Libraries in Paris. That work does not give the number of servants employed, but I have added them as far as I could find them from the official information sent to the Committee of the House of Commons in 1835 and 1836, part of which was collected by Mr. Panizzi. I may premise that it was long the system for the literary and scientific men in France to hold many appointments with a small salary to each, so that they could only bestow a small part of their time on the duties of any one office. By a late regulation the same person is not allowed to hold more than three places under government at the same time.

8. *The Royal Library of Paris* contains, besides a collection of Printed Books and Maps, a collection of MSS., Engravings, Medals, and Antiquities of various kinds.

It is divided into four departments, viz. : 1. Printed Books ; 2. MSS. ; 3. Medals and Antiquities ; 4. Engravings, Maps and Plans (the Maps and Plans in the British Museum are kept with the Printed Books). In the department of Printed Books of this Library there are employed 5 persons, viz. : 2 Conservators, and 3 Assistant-Conservators. There is a Reading-room attached, open daily from 10 to 3.

According to the information furnished to the Committee in 1835, this Library then contained 700,000 volumes of Books, and 80,000 MSS. ; and the Printed Books had then 2 Conservators, 2 Assistant-Conservators, and 10 Servants. (See *Rep. Comm. B. M.* 1835, i. 557.)

9. *The Mazarin Library of Paris* contains 150,000 Volumes, including the MSS. and Tracts. It is under the care of 10 persons, viz. : 1 Director, 1 Assistant-Director, 3 Conservators, 2 Librarians, 2 Assistant-Librarians, and 1 Treasurer and Secretary.

According to the *Rep. Comm. B. M.* 1835, i. p. 525. 557. there were then 1 Director, 5 Conservators, 2 Assistant-Librarians, and 5 Servants ; and the Library contained

90,000 volumes of Books, and 3437 MSS. When first opened in 1648, it had only 60,000 Volumes.

9. *The Library of the Arsenal of Paris* contains 180,000 volumes of Books, and 5000 MSS. It is under the care of 11 persons, viz.: 1 Chief Librarian, 2 Administrator-Conservators, 1 Conservator, 2 Assistant-Conservators, 2 Librarians, 2 Sub-Librarians, and 1 Treasurer. It is open to the public daily, from 10 to 3.

In 1835 (*Rep. Comm. B. M.*, i. p. 525, 557.) it was said to have 176,000 Volumes, and 6000 MSS. It had then 1 Chief Librarian, 1 Administrator-Conservator, 5 Conservators, 6 Servants, and a Porter.

10. *The Library of St. G n evieve, in Paris*, contains 250,000 Printed Books, and 3000 MSS.; founded in 1624. It has a Reading-room open from 10 to 3, and from 6 to 10 in the evening, which has an average of from 300 to 400 readers in the morning, and 500 to 600 in the evening. It is under the care of 18 persons, viz.: 1 Director, 6 Conservators, 5 Librarians, 5 Sub-Librarians, and 1 Treasurer and Secretary.

In 1835 it was said to contain about 160,000 Printed Books, and 3500 MSS. It was then under the care of 1 Chief Librarian, 5 Conservators, 2 Assistant-Conservators, 4 Servants, and 3 Agents. (*Rep. Comm. B. M.* 1835, i. p. 528, 557.)

Mr. Forshall, in his Letter to the Treasury, Dec. 16. 1845, thus described the *British Museum Library*:—

“It may be said that the Library at this time consists of about 300,000 volumes, containing probably 500,000 separate works, taking each separate pamphlet as a separate work. As compared with the great public Libraries on the Continent, it ranks with those of Vienna, Berlin, and Dresden; but it is inferior in number of separate works to those of Munich and Paris.”



In a Report presented to parliament this year (1849), it is stated that “the number of volumes in the British Museum Library, at the end of 1848, was about 435,000, and 10,221 maps, charts, and plans.”

The following Table, extracted from the Report of Mr. Panizzi on Foreign Public Libraries, shows the number of Volumes and of Persons employed in 1835 or 1836 (see *Rep. Select Comm. B. M.* 1836, ii. 545, 546.), which differs in some cases from the number now employed, as given in the preceding pages:—

Library.	Printed Vols.	MS. Vols.	Officers.	Servants.	Total.
Basle - - -	60,000	—	3	2	5
Berlin - - -	320,000	10,000	9	3	12
Berne - - -	36,000	—	4	1	5
Bruxelles - -	140,000	10,000	1	1	2
Buda, Univ. - -	65,000	—	5	1	6
— Szech. - - -	20,000	—	2	1	3
Cassel - - -	85,000	1,200	3	?	—
Copenhagen - -	400,000	15,000	7	2	9
Dresden - - -	250,000	2,700	5	2	7
Florence, Palat. -	70,000	—	2	1	3
— Magliab. - -	140,000	12,000	4	4	8
— Riccard. - -	55,000	3,500	2	1	3
— Marucell. - -	35,000	—	2	1	3
Frankfort - - -	50,000	500	4	1	5
Geneva - - -	32,000	—	3	2	5
Göttingen - - -	200,000	1,500	12	2	14
Hague - - -	100,000	—	3	1	4
Leyden - - -	70,000	—	4	1	5
Lisbon - - -	51,000	—	19	5	24
Madrid - - -	121,000	—	7	10?	17
Milan, Brera - -	200,000	—	7	5	12
— Amb. - - -	100,000	4,633	8	2	10
Munich - - -	500,000	—	?	?	—
Naples - - -	166,000	—	15	4	19
Orleans - - -	30,000	—	1	1	2

Library.	Printed Vols.	MS. Vols.	Officers.	Servants.	Total.
Paris, Roy. - -	650,000	80,000	22	12	34*
— Arsenal - -	200,000	6,000	8	(6)	—
— St. Génévieve	200,000	3,500	13	2	15
— Mazarin - -	100,000	3,437	8	8	16
— Instit. - -	90,000	—	3	?	—
Parma - - -	82,000	3,000	5	4	9
Prague - - -	90,000	3,000	5	4	9
Turin - - -	85,000	2,250	5	4	9
Venice (1833)	85,602	—	3	3	6
Vienna - - -	300,000	16,000	8	4	12
Wolfenbüttel	140,000	—	2	1	3

To these I may add (according to the regulations in 1848):

British Museum -	435,000	—	27	31	58
London Library -	40,000	—	1	3	4

The British Museum Library offers several peculiarities, mostly tending to abridge the labour of the persons in the Library who supply the books to the readers. It is solely a Library of Printed Books; that is to say, it and the collection of MSS. are perfectly separate departments, which I think a great improvement, and one that has assisted in making the collection of MSS. so rich; while, in the Bodleian and several other English Libraries and almost all the Continental Libraries I have named, the Printed Books and MSS. are under the same officers; and the charge of the Engravings and Drawings, which in the British Museum also form a separate department, is, in the Berlin and other Libraries, considered part of the duties of the Librarian. (See also, in confirmation of my own experience, Panizzi on Foreign Libraries, *Rep. Select Comm. Brit Mus.* 1835, i. 547.)

In like manner, in the British Museum, the management of the Reading-room is also under the charge of a separate department from that of the Keeper of the Printed Books,

\* This is for the whole establishment, including manuscripts, prints, and antiquities: the number for the printed books only is 4 officers and 10 servants. (See *Rep. Comm. B. M.*, i. 557.)

who has only to supply to it the printed books asked for by the readers; while in the Bodleian Library, and in most others in England, and in all on the Continent that I have seen, the Reading-room is under the direction and management of the Librarians, and, wherever the books are allowed to circulate, they have the charge of that duty also.

The Museum Library is the only one which has come under my experience, in which the Librarian thinks it necessary to keep a register of all the works consulted by each reader. I do not see any useful purpose such a register can answer; but at the same time I know, from the experience of the Zoological Department, that if I kept a register of the specimens examined and consulted by each visitor, or if it were suspected that I kept an accurate account of what they consulted, it would drive away at least two thirds of the persons who now use the collections. The keeping of this register is a recent regulation, and is one of the causes of delay in the delivery of the books to the readers.

The British Museum Library is likewise the only one I am acquainted with where the readers in the Reading-room are required to copy the title from the Catalogue; and to mark on the ticket the place of publication, the size, and the date of publication of the work they require, together with the press-mark which indicates the series of shelves, the number of the shelf, and the exact position, with regard to other books, which the book they want occupies on the shelf of the Library.

I have visited many of the Public Libraries on the Continent, and in all of them the finding of the work required by the reader in the Catalogue, and of its place in the Library, is considered to be the duty of the Librarians. In three fourths of the Foreign Libraries the readers simply ask for the works they require, and in this way I have always procured those I asked for. (See, on this subject, Mr. Panizzi's observations above referred to, p. 553.) Indeed, I have not seen a single Library where a Catalogue of the Library marked with the place of the book is accessible to the reader. The

only exception that occurs to me is in Audiffredi's Catalogue of the Casanati Library in Rome, which I have never visited, where the reference to the presses is printed after the title of the book.

Mr. Panizzi gives the following account of the introduction of this plan into the Museum Library (see *Rep. Comm. B. M.*, ii. 402. No. 4876.; reprinted in his pamphlet *On the Supply of Printed Books*, &c. London, 8vo. 1846):—

“In the Catalogue of the British Museum, the one which we keep for the use of the Library, there are certain references given or symbols to know exactly where to find a book. In the Reading-room Catalogue those symbols were not put. I thought, and Mr. Baber thought also, that it would be an evident improvement to have in the Catalogue for the Reading-room the same references as in the Catalogue of the Library, because the reader would have only to copy the title of the work as well as the reference, and instead of his ticket going to *one of our men, who is obliged to look over the Catalogue inside to put the reference, the attendant would go direct with that ticket to the place where the book is, and carry it to the Reading-room immediately.* It would be an economy of time for the readers, consequently a saving of time for our men, and, consequently, a *saving of expense in the number of men.* But there are other advantages attending this system. Often the readers come and ask for a book which was never printed, or which, if printed, is not in the Library; or they write down the title as they have seen it elsewhere not correctly noted, and give it to one of the attendants. The attendant begins to look over all the Catalogue, and cannot find the book. He is afraid of being in the wrong, he loses a great deal of time, and the consequence is that all *the readers who have written correct tickets are kept waiting by the fault of him who has written an incorrect one.* By the new system, a person will be obliged to look in the Catalogue in order to put down the reference, he will therefore ascertain whether we have the book or not, and *not give us useless trouble,* and to the injury of other readers. Having



given that reference, if it be wrong, it may be wrong because it is incorrectly put, and then we must answer for it; *but if it be the fault of the reader, although I could find the book, I would upon principle return the ticket*, because all the other readers are inconvenienced by the carelessness of this one, and the returning the ticket would be the best mode of securing attention. *By these means we shall save much time*, and remove much of the inconvenience now complained of by the readers."

This system was brought into action in 1837, immediately after Mr. Panizzi succeeded Mr. Baber; but it is liable, in my opinion, to serious objections. In the first place, it throws considerable trouble on the reader, which properly belongs to, and can be much more easily performed by, a person used to the occupation and belonging to the Library. Secondly, it precludes the reader from obtaining any works but those which are entered in the Catalogue, and it is well known that the Catalogues are very much in arrear; consequently no person can procure any work in the Reading-room which has not been in the Museum for at least a year, and probably more.

Sir Harris Nicolas states that he at first thought the system an improvement, but, after some years' experience, he found that it was a great obstruction. See his pamphlet entitled "Animadversions on the Library and Catalogues of the British Museum. London, 8vo. 1846."

The first paragraph which I have printed in italics in the above quotation is not consistent with the present system; for, instead of the attendant going direct "with that ticket to the place where the book is, and carrying it to the Reading-room immediately," by the system introduced in 1844 or 1845, since that evidence was given and since Sir Harris Nicolas's approval of the system was written, the attendants have a number of ceremonies to go through, which greatly obstruct the passage of the book to the reader. I suspect that it was the result of these ceremonies which partly caused Sir H. Nicolas's change of opinion, although the other portions of

the system are obstructive enough, especially if carried out in the spirit of the latter part of Mr. Panizzi's statement.

Mr. Panizzi, in the account of the introduction of the new system, lays great stress on the fact, that if a reader makes a mistake in his ticket he obstructs all the other readers in getting their works. It therefore occurred to me that it might be curious to find the number of persons employed to supply books to readers elsewhere.

I have not been able to find any statistics respecting Reading-rooms: but it has appeared to me that Lending or Circulating Libraries most nearly resemble a Reading-room; and, therefore, that it would be interesting to know the number of books which some of these Libraries are in the habit of circulating in a given time, and the number of persons employed in that occupation.

It should, however, be borne in mind, that, as the books in these Lending Libraries are sent off the premises, it is necessary that a more accurate account should be kept of the works sent out, than is required where, as in the Reading-room of the British Museum, the reader gives a ticket, signed with his name, for every individual book he requires to consult.

1. *The London Library, St. James's Square.*—This Library, when it was first opened in 1841, consisted of 3000 volumes; it has increased at an average growth of 5000 volumes per year, and now contains 40,000 volumes.

The issues per day have varied according to the growing increase in the number of the subscribers, which is at present (Feb. 1849) between 900 and 930. Some time back the average issue was reckoned about 200 volumes per day; of course, it would be much less in the dull season.

				Vols.
Between May 3. 1841 and April 30. 1842				14,834
May 1. 1842	„	1843	„	21,010
„ 1843	„	1844	„	22,696
„ 1844	„	1845	„	26,210
„ 1845	„	1846	„	28,583
„ 1846	„	1847	„	33,643
„ 1847	„	1848	„	38,808

From the increase that has recently taken place, it is expected that by the 30th of April, 1849, fully 44,000 volumes will have been issued, that is to say, at the average of 146 per day throughout the year.

To arrange, catalogue, keep in order, and select the additions, to give out and receive back the works, and to attend the reading-room, require 4 persons, viz.: a Secretary and Librarian (Mr. Cochrane), 2 Assistants, and a little boy to do the dirty work; until lately there was only one assistant.

2. *The Greenwich Society for the Diffusion of useful Knowledge.*—The Library of this Society now consists of between 6000 and 7000 volumes.

				Vols.
Between	March 25. 1839	and	Sept. 24.	were issued 442
	„	1840	„ 24.	„ 1,110
	„	1841	„ 24.	„ 2,135
	Sept. 24. 1842	and	Dec. 30.	„ 1,700
	January 1842	and	June	„ 4,114
	January 1843	and	June	„ 6,012
	July 1843	and	Dec. 30.	„ 10,446
	January 1844	and	June	„ 13,500
	July 1844	and	Dec. 30.	„ 21,600
	January 1845	and	June	„ 20,000

The issues have much increased since these returns. They now issue on each Saturday or Monday about 200 volumes, and the weekly average is about 800.

The following are the issues in the weeks beginning the 4th of Dec. 1848, and 5th of Feb. 1849:—

		Vols.			Vols.
Monday,	Dec. 4. 1848,	128	Feb. 5. 1849,	192	
Tuesday	-	115	-	100	
Wednesday	-	111	-	165	
Thursday	-	101	-	112	
Friday	-	137	-	172	
Saturday	-	201	-	223	
		<hr/>		<hr/>	
Total	-	793	-	964	
		<hr/>		<hr/>	
Daily average	-	132	-	160	

The Library is open daily from nine till nine, except on the Lecture night (Monday), when it closes at seven. The issue of works is now entirely made by 2 youths, one aged seventeen, and the other twelve. The Library is closed twice a year for a fortnight, for the purpose of ascertaining the condition of the books, &c.

The information respecting the London Library was furnished me by Mr. Cochrane; that respecting the Greenwich Library, by P. Purvis, M.D., and D. Bass, Esq., the Secretaries.

VI. Mr. Panizzi, before the Committee of the House of Commons in 1836, observed: "Now, what I complain of is, that the Library has not had a fair share of it (the amount of extra grants), because it has not had so much as one seventh of that sum; and without going further back than 1831, the time since which I have been connected with the Museum, if you compare the sums, you will see how scantily the Library has been supplied with pecuniary assistance by the nation, in comparison with the other departments." — *Panizzi, Rep. Select Comm. Brit. Mus.* 1836, p. 390.

From the Parliamentary Return it appears that, between 1754 and 1846, there had been expended in the extension of the collection of

Antiquities and Coins	-	-	-	£122,115	or	$37\frac{1}{2}$	per cent.
Printed Books	-	-	-	92,447		$28\frac{1}{2}$	"
Manuscripts	-	-	-	40,853		$12\frac{1}{2}$	"
Prints and Drawings	-	-	-	28,109		$8\frac{1}{2}$	"
Minerals and Natural History	-	-	-	27,643		$8\frac{1}{2}$	"
Zoology	-	-	-	12,751		4	"
Botany	-	-	-	1,204		$\frac{1}{2}$	"
				Total			
						£325,122	

*Return to the H. of C., March 9. 1847.*

Hence it does not appear that the Printed Books have



been neglected, for they have had much more expended on them than any of the other departments except the Antiquities; and very many individual specimens of the latter are of necessity far more costly than any Printed Books.

Taking another view of the subject, it appears that the increase of the literary part of the Museum (comprising the Printed Books, Manuscripts, and Prints and Drawings) taken together, which, in other institutions, is generally called

The Library	-	has cost	£161,409	or 50 per cent.
The Antiquarian	-	„	122,115	37½ „
The Natural Historical	„	„	41,598	12½ „

The following Table exhibits the amount of the expenditure of the British Museum in the several years specified, the cost of the Department of Printed Books for each of those years, and the proportion which it bears to the whole expenditure.

	General Expenditure.	Printed-book Department.	Proportion.
1836	£19,076	£5,368	about 28 per cent.
1840	31,427	5,874	18 „
1846	45,911	19,996	43 „

It is to be recollected that the Museum consists of seven departments, viz., 1. Manuscripts, 2. Printed Books, 3. Antiquities, 4. Prints, 5. Mineralogy and Geology, 6. Zoology, and 7. Botany; so that in 1847 six of these departments had only 57 per cent of the grant to be expended amongst them, whilst the Printed Books alone absorbed 43 per cent. The above Table shows the immense increase of cost of that department compared with the other parts of the establishment, which have become so much more useful to the public, while the Printed-book Department has in this respect, as I have shown in my former Letter, been stationary, or even retrograde.



Of all the departments into which the Museum is divided, it appears to me that the care of the Printed Books is the easiest and most simple. The books, with very rare exceptions, bear their names on their titlepages, and they are the most abundant and the most generally distributed of all the objects to be collected; hence there have been such numerous works and catalogues published respecting them, all facilitating the labours of the Librarian. Once catalogued and arranged on the shelves, there are no further alterations required for their permanent use.

The Manuscripts, as the late Mr. Cochran remarked, require more time and talent to catalogue, and more judgment and knowledge to read and understand; but their titles may be deduced from reading their contents, and frequently, also, from the works in which they have been printed *in extenso* or abridged. On the other hand, in the departments of Antiquities and Natural History, the curators have to ascertain the names which writers have given to the different productions, and the places they occupy in the systematic arrangement, from certain characters which the specimens present, often very imperfectly, and which can only be learned by long and profound study; hence the cataloguing of a single object of nature or art may require more time than whole sections of a library. In making a Catalogue of such objects, reference must be made to all the works in which the same or other similar objects have been described; and this requires a most extensive acquaintance with the literature of the subject, and a very large library, to facilitate labours which necessarily occupy a great deal of time. The arrangement, too, of such objects varies with the progress of knowledge, and alterations in it are constantly found requisite, to keep it on a level with the science of the day.

In most foreign institutions this difference is well understood; for though, as I have shown, most foreign Librarians have charge of what in the British Museum is considered as three separate departments, namely, 1. the Manuscripts, 2. the Printed Books, and 3. the Prints, yet all these toge-

ther employ fewer persons than are employed in the British Museum for the Printed Books alone. On the other hand, in all the great Continental Museums, instead of there being only a single keeper, with a few assistants, for what is considered in the British Museum as, 1. the Antiquarian, 2. the Mineralogical, 3. the Zoological, and 4. the Botanical Departments, each of these is divided into two or more separate departments, having an officer at the head and a separate staff. Thus what in the Museum is called the Antiquarian Department is considered in Berlin as nine separate departments, employing 18 officers and 25 servants (see *Report Sel. Comm. B. M.*, ii. App. No. 10. 138. 159.); at Munich as three separate departments, viz., 1. Coins and Medals, 2. Antiquities, 3. Ethnographical Collections (see *Rep. Sel. Comm. B. M.*, *ibid*, p. 32.). In Paris there are a keeper or conservator for the Greek and Roman, and a second keeper for the Egyptian and Phœnician Antiquities; the Coins and Medals forming in a separate department. In Dresden there are a director of Antiquities, a second director for the Medals, and a third for the Ethnographical Collection. The Zoological Department of the British Museum alone constitutes four separate departments in Paris (indeed five, if the Osteological Collection is included), and three departments in Berlin; and similar arrangements will be found to prevail elsewhere.

VII. Great additions have undoubtedly been made to the collection of Books, especially since the larger Treasury grant of 1846; but, as far as my experience has gone, more attention has been paid to the acquisition of rare and costly works, early printed books, and large paper and vellum copies, and generally to procuring a large number of works with the remainder of the money, than to care in their selection or in completing the more useful and scientific works in the Library.

Mr. Panizzi, before the Select Committee on the British Museum, in 1836, distinctly advocated this preference of rare

and costly books in place of modern and useful works. He observes :—

“ I think, considering the British Museum to be a National Library for research, its utility increases in proportion with the *very rare and costly books* in preference to *modern books*; such books as you do not look for either in private collections (except very splendid ones), or not readily to be purchased by individuals whenever they want them.—You do not so much want such common books as might be had at any circulating library. The library of Göttingen, referred to as a pattern, is a university library; it is a library for the education of the persons attending the university, and not a national collection like that of the British Museum. It is not a library for research as ours ought to be, but a library of education; they ought not, therefore, to be conducted on the same principles.” — *Panizzi, Rep. Select Comm. Brit. Mus.* ii. 391.

“ The Professors complain sometimes of the librarians that they do not buy common books, as this would save them the expense of buying them themselves; but the librarians do not mind such complaints, and they are perfectly right. The fact is, that the Library of the British Museum, being the only library for a million and a half of inhabitants, will never be satisfactory to every body, whatever be the expense or care taken to please the public, so long as it is the only one in London. There ought to be, at least, two public libraries for education, and they ought to be formed on very different principles from those of the Library of the British Museum. The principle of collecting useful books for common use ought to prevail in them to a certain extent, for the same reason that it prevails at Göttingen. *But this is no reason why the same principle should be adopted in the British Museum.*” — *Panizzi*, l. c.

I am fully aware that to fill up the desiderata in the different departments of knowledge, and to complete imperfect works, would occupy considerable time, and require a large amount of various information, which could only be supplied by officers conversant with the several branches; while there is little comparative difficulty in the purchase of rare and



expensive books, or in the addition of lengthened series of works on subjects which are little studied, or in languages which few can read. That these classes of books have actually of late years obtained in the Library of the British Museum that undue preference which is avowed in the foregoing extracts from Mr. Panizzi's evidence, will be obvious to any one who will take the trouble of comparing the summary Reports of the accessions to the Printed-book Department accompanying the annual estimates laid before the House of Commons, and would, I think, become still more manifest if the good old custom of printing an Annual List of the accessions to the different departments of the Museum were still in force. By means of this List the officers, readers, and visitors were formerly enabled to ascertain what books, manuscripts, and objects of nature and art had been added to the collections during each successive year. But this List was discontinued by the Trustees, at the repeated request of Mr. Panizzi, early in 1841; and since that period there are no other means of obtaining any knowledge of what has been added, or how the money granted has been expended, than from the very short abstracts in the Returns above referred to; except in the MS. Department, where the Keeper has received permission from the Trustees to continue the List.

On the other hand, the Bodleian Library at Oxford presents to the University each year an Alphabetical List of all the works purchased during the year, with the size, place, and price, and an accurate account of the receipt and expenditure of the library. At Halle, in Prussia, the Librarian of the University Library in the same manner publishes annually a Classed Catalogue of the books received during each year. It is printed in double columns, in 4to; that for 1838 contains 740 titles. Several other German Libraries likewise publish annual lists of additions, as Berlin, Bonn, Breslaw, Giessen, Görlitz, Göttingen, Greifswald, Rostock, &c. Many of these Libraries publish, also, lists of duplicates, as Berlin (1847), Breslaw, Heidelberg, Hamburg, Leipsic, Weimar, &c.

There are many other topics to which I might advert, but I have already trespassed farther on your Lordship's patience than I had intended at the outset. In both this and my preceding Letter I have most carefully abstained from consulting or quoting any work, paper, or evidence, which has not been given to the public, and is not, therefore, free to the use of any person occupied on the subject. I have considered it due both to your Lordship and myself to lay before you a part of the materials which I have collected, and which may serve to illustrate the positions advanced in my former Letter, and to show that, although written in a single evening, it was not put forth without ample consideration. I should have wished to bring the subject of these Letters before your Lordship and the Commission in a *vivâ voce* examination, if I had not already found that the nature of that examination, my want of practice in such a mode of delivering my sentiments, and perhaps also my own temperament, render it difficult for me to give in that manner a clear and deliberate expression of my views. For these reasons I have preferred committing them to print, and trusting to the evidence of the facts on which they are based, for any impression they may produce.

But I cannot conclude without adverting to the very numerous communications which I have received (many of them from literary and scientific men of high reputation) in general concurrence with the opinions expressed in my previous Letter. Very few indeed have come to my knowledge materially adverse to them. One gentleman, it is true, forgetful of the names of Haller, Trew, Boehmer, and Dryander, among professed bibliographers, and of Linnæu, Blumenbach, Cuvier, and Humboldt, as bibliographical critics of the highest eminence, has gone the length of asserting that a devotion to natural history disqualifies a man from judging of books or libraries, and that it is ignorant presumption in such a one to meddle with subjects which he cannot understand; and another, for whom I entertain great respect, has even returned my Letter unread, on the ground that I am not entitled to pass the limits of my own Department. But I beg leave,



most emphatically, to declare that nothing but a strong sense of the duty which I owe to that Department could have induced me (unpractised as I am in controversial writing, and unwilling as I am to engage in it) to take up my pen on the present occasion. This and my former Letter to your Lordship are written in the interest of a Department sacrificed by the Treasury minute, which I have already quoted, to the aggrandisement of the Department of Printed Books; of a Department the expulsion of which from the British Museum has been a long cherished and openly avowed object of the Keeper of the Printed Books; of a Department the duties of which are obstructed by the acknowledged preference given by that Keeper to rare and costly, over modern and useful, books, by the want of a sufficient Catalogue of the existing books, and by the impediments opposed to their ready accessibility. Every private and personal sentiment would have induced me to remain silent, if an overwhelming sense of public duty had not compelled me to speak out; and it is a sincere gratification to me, that, in so speaking of what I cannot help regarding as grievous errors in judgment on the part of a brother-officer, the pain which I naturally experience is not embittered by the smallest infusion of personal feeling.

Trusting your Lordship will excuse any inelegance of style, or deficiency of arrangement, allow me to subscribe myself,

Your Lordship's

Most obedient servant,

JOHN EDWARD GRAY.

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